

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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P R 121609Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6443

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (1756 VICE 1809)

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJ: REACTION TO AMB GODLEY'S CONFIRMATION

REF: BEIRUT 1840 NOTAL

1. NEWS OF AMB GODLEY'S CONFIRMATION HAS TOUCHED  
OFF NEW SPATE OF COMMENT IN POLITICAL CIRCLES AND IN  
PRESS, WITH LEADING LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN AL-MUHARRIR  
JOINING IN FOR FIRST TIME.

2. OUTSPOKEN INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN RAYMOND EDDE  
IS REPORTED IN MOST FEB 12 ARABIC PAPERS TO HAVE  
REPLIED TO NEWS CONF QUESTION ON "HIS OPINION OF  
NEW AMERICAN AMB, GIVEN THAT AMERICAN PAPERS  
HAVE ACCUSED THIS AMB OF BEING BEHIND WAR CRIMES  
IN LAOS AND VIETNAM" BY SAYING: "I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING  
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ABOUT THIS AMB. BEYOND THIS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN

IF PAPERS HAVE MADE SUCH ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM?  
AMERICA IS NOT 'ASHAMED' OF VIETNAM WAR. THERE WERE  
THOSE WHO STARTED IT; THEN NIXON CAME TO END IT. BEYOND  
THIS, AMERICA ARMED ISRAEL AND PERSISTED IN SUPPORTING  
IT AGAINST ARABS; NOW IT HAS COME TO WORK FOR ACHIEVEMENT  
OF PEACE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL. THIS IS AMERICA, AND  
THIS IS ITS POLICY. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT THE  
AMERICAN AMB DID THERE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO  
GET TO KNOW WHAT HE WANTS TO DO IN LEBANON. IF IT PLEASES  
US, FINE. IF NOT, WE WILL ASK FOR HIS RECALL."

3. PRIOR TO EDDE'S STATEMENT, LEADING LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN  
ARABIC DAILY AL-MUHARRIR FOR FIRST TIME JOINED ANTI-GODLEY  
CAMPAIGN PREVIOUSLY RESTRICTED TO LIMITED-CIRCULATION  
COMMUNIST AND LEFTIST PAPERS (EXCEPT FOR ONE PREVIOUSLY  
REPORTED COMMENT IN LEADING PRO-CAIRO AL-ANWAR). ON FEB  
9, AL-MUHARRIR BANNERED UGLY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE "NIXON  
APPOINTS 'BUTCHER OF LAOS AND VIETNAM' AS AMERICAN AMB  
IN BEIRUT." STORY QUOTED "ARAB DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN BEIRUT"  
AS EXPRESSING THEIR FEAR THAT "ONE OF PRES NIXON'S MAIN  
GOALS IN APPOINTING GODLEY, WITH HIS BAD REPUTATION AND DARK  
PAST, AS HIS AMB IN BEIRUT IS TO BOLSTER EFFORTS  
BEING MADE BY AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE TO OBSERVE AND COMBAT  
ACTIVITIES OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE." THESE CIRCLES ALSO  
NOTED THAT "GODLEY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO COOPERATE WITH  
ARMIN MEYER... AND COORDINATE HIS ACTIVITIES WITH  
MOSSAD BRANCH OF ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE... WITH WHICH HE  
COOPERATED IN ALL THE DIRTY OPERATIONS AGAINST LEADERS  
OF RESISTANCE, AMONG THEM CRIMINAL ATTACK THAT  
TOOK PLACE IN BEIRUT (IN APR 1973)." PAPER CONTINUED  
ATTACK ON FEB 10 WITH EDITORIAL ASKING "WILL  
LEBANON AGREE TO GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT AS U S AMBASSADOR  
IN BEIRUT...? LEBANESE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DEMAND TO  
KNOW STATE'S ATTITUDE REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF AMERICAN  
BUTCHER OF INDOCHINA AS AMB TO LEBANON. INDEED,  
LEBANESE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT STATE REJECT  
THIS APPOINTMENT."

4. PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST PARHJ ORGAN AN-NIDA RESUMED ITS  
EARLIER CAMPAIGN WITH ARTICLES FEB 8 AND 9 DEMANDING  
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THAT GOL WITHDRAW ITS AGREEMENT TO APPOINTMENT. FEB  
9 ARTICLE NOTED THAT "APPOINTMENT OF THIS PERSON, WHO HAS  
PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED IN DIRTY WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST  
LAOTIAN PEOPLE, CAN ONLY MEAN THAT WASHINGTON IS  
PREPARING FOR SIMILAR OPERATION IN LEBANON AGAINST  
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND AGAINST NATIONALIST MOVEMENT.  
HOWEVER, NATIONALIST MOVEMENT... WILL KNOW HOW TO OPPOSE  
THE PLOTS AND DEFEAT THEM."

5. COMMENT: HARES CHEHAB, WELL INFORMED EDITOR OF PRIVATE ARAB INFORMATION AGENCY, DESCRIBED ABOVE ATTACKS IN HIS BULLETIN AS "FIRST SIGNS OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST GODLEY" AND STATED THAT "IT IS EXPECTED CAMPAIGN AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF MR. GODLEY WILL ESCALATE IN COMING WEEKS AS DATE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN LEBANON DRAWS NEAR." CHEHAB'S PREDICTION NOT NECESSARILY TRUE AS PRESS COMMENTS RE AMB GODLEY STILL CONFINED LARGELY TO LEFTIST PRESS. PRESS FELL SILENT FEB 11 AND 12 AND MAY REMAIN SO UNTIL AMB HAS ARRIVED UNLESS WIRE SERVICES CARRY FURTHER STORIES FROM WASHINGTON. HOUGHTON

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